REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 34-68 have been newly added. Claims 34-68 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Initially, Applicants note that an electronic Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") listing 46 references was filed on April 1, 2003, and a separate, paper IDS was mailed April 4, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the listing of prior art in the electronic IDS and the listing in the separate, paper IDS be initialed and returned.

Claims 30-33 were rejected as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,974,6662 to Eldridge et al. ("Eldridge"). Claims 30-33 have been cancelled, mooting this rejection.

New independent claim 34 includes an interposer that interconnects a probe card and a contactor. The interposer includes a plurality of spring contacts, each comprising a beam extending away from a surface of the interposer, and the beam is contoured to affect a deflection characteristic of the beam. Eldridge's spring contacts 514, 516 are formed of shaped wires; Eldridge does not each or suggest spring contacts with beams that are contoured to affect a deflection characteristic of the beam. Indeed, by contouring the beams of the spring contacts, one can precisely control a variety of characteristics of the spring contact, which is an improvement over Eldridge. Thus, new independent claim 34 patentably distinguishes over Eldridge.

Claims 35-46 depend from claim 34 and are therefore also patentable. These claims additionally describe specific embodiments or implementations of the contoured beam that further define over Eldridge. Therefore, dependent claims 35-46 further define over Eldridge.

Independent claim 47 also includes an interposer that interconnects a probe card and a contactor. The interposer of claim 47 includes spring contact structures in which each spring contact structure comprises a pair of electrically connected spring contacts extending from a surface of the interposer. Again, Eldridge does not teach or suggest electrically connected pairs of spring contacts extending from the same surface of the interposer. Thus, claim 47 and its dependent claims (claims 48-50) patentably distinguish over Eldridge.

Independent claim 51 and its dependent claims (claims 52-64) include a probe card, a contactor, and a plurality of spring contacts interconnecting the probe card and the contactor. The spring contacts include beams contoured to affect a deflection characteristic of the beam. As

discussed above with respect to claim 34, Eldridge does not teach or suggest spring contacts with beams that are contoured to affect a deflection characteristic of the beams. Thus, claims 51-64 patentably distinguish over Eldridge.

Independent claim 65 and its dependent claims (claims 66-68) also include a probe card, a contactor, and spring contact pairs interconnecting the probe card and the contactor. As discussed above with respect to claim 47, Eldridge does not teach or suggest spring contact pairs. Thus, claims 65-68 also patentably distinguish over Eldridge.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 536-6763.

Respectfully submitted,

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